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NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS

BY

THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM ROMPKEY

MINISTER OF STATE (MINES)

TO

THE PROSPECTORS AND DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

TORONTO, ONTARIO

MARCH 7, 1984



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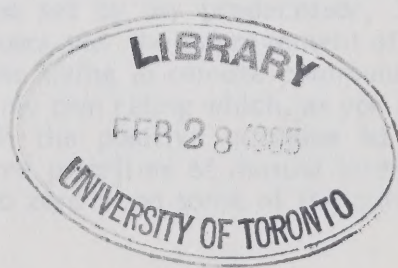
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I am very pleased to have been asked to present the distinguished service awards this evening and I thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

Coming from a mining area that has had its share of ups and downs, I have had to make it my business to know something about the mining industry. I was an active member of the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce before I was elected as the MP for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador. I was aware of the concerns of the mineral industry as the minister responsible for Revenue Canada. I learned even more as the Minister of State for Small Business. Now, I have become your formal voice in Cabinet, as Minister of State for Mines.

I'm far from an expert on the industry, but I feel very comfortable with it, I suppose because many of you, at one time or another, have operated in the North, or in remote areas. This gives us a common perspective in our understanding of that part of Canada.

The past few years have brought a number of difficulties to your doorsteps, but they have also brought opportunities. Tough times have meant that we have had to examine more closely the way we do things. We have had to look at long term planning for our mining communities and start to diversify their economic bases. We have had to develop a better understanding of world mineral markets. And we have had to sharpen our tools and collectively work harder and smarter. The results are that we can now see light at the end of the tunnel. Modest growth is returning to the mineral industry, and we in government have grown in our understanding and our responsiveness to your concerns.

We are entering a new era in federal-provincial cooperation to assist the mineral industry. In the next few months I intend to sign, with my colleagues in many of the provinces, agreements to carry out mineral development and geological activities far beyond anything done to date. These long term, multimillion dollar plans will enhance industry in an essential way. We will combine our scientific, technological and market development resources to bolster industry activities.

I am the Minister of Mines and miners and am eager to look after the interests of both. I will try hard to see and hear from as many of you as possible. It is my intention to continue to further the priorities set by my predecessor, Judy Erola, such as the modernization of non-ferrous smelters and the improvement of tax provisions for developers, producers, miners, and those living in remote communities and in the North. This has particular significance in my own riding which, as you may know, contains Labrador City. I am pleased with the positive outcome of the northern benefits issue. I intend also to develop some priorities of mutual interest. The month of May presents me with an opportunity to zero in on some of the current concerns of the mineral industry.

The second Mineral Outlook Conference will be held May 15 in Ottawa and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. A big success last year, this year's conference will focus on the international mining scene; the world economic picture; the implications for Canada's mineral exports in a changing world market; the resource policies of foreign governments; and the growth of Third World countries as competitors in mineral production. The likely impact of new materials such as superplastics and ceramics on traditional mineral markets will be discussed also.

On May 16 I will bring many of the views of the industry, nationwide, to my first meeting with all the provincial Ministers of Mines. May 16 is also the Mining Association of Canada's annual meeting, and I am pleased that some common themes have already emerged from discussions with both your association and theirs.

You develop quite a feeling for this country of ours when you get to see a lot of it, meet the people from coast to coast, and participate in government. What you come away with is a great respect for the heart of the country...for the people who are world leaders on so many fronts. We are experts in resource development and management. We lead the pack in mapping, in geological work, in remote sensing, and in satellite technology. Our task is to further strengthen our world position, to preserve the environment for future Canadians, and to find new mineral opportunities.

No one understands this better than you. You are at the cutting edge of the exploration of our frontiers. Your diligence and your patience is personified in the individuals we are here tonight to honour.

Norman B. Keevil, Chairman of the board of Teck Corporation, is being recognized for his contribution to geophysics and scientific prospecting, his leadership in building Teck Corporation into a major mining group, and his valuable contribution to the Prospectors and Developers Association over many years.

Described as "one of Canada's most successful mine-finders," Dr. Keevil has had a varied and interesting career. A native of Saskatchewan, he has been a teacher, a researcher, a geologist and a geophysicist. He received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. He became a Research Fellow at Harvard and at M.I.T. and later obtained his PhD at Harvard in 1937.

He was the first to make extensive use of airborne surveys in mineral exploration and he was founder of Teck Corporation which is now a diversified Canadian natural resources conglomerate. Dr. Keevil, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations for being a recipient of this distinguished service award.


Arthur White is being recognized tonight for his role in the Dickenson Group and for the very active role he has played in financing mining ventures and for his long and valuable service to the PDA.

A native of Ontario, Mr. White has been a financier of Canadian mining ventures since 1939 and has been described as "a true Canadian risk-taker, pioneer and builder." His firm, Brewis and White, mobilized millions of dollars for resource exploration and development for more than 50 companies between 1943 and 1960. Among them was the highly successful Dickenson Red Lake Mines, of which he is still a director. Through his efforts, Dickenson is the nucleus of a diversified group of resource companies.

He was chosen to be the first Chairman of the Broker-Dealers' Association of Ontario in 1948 in recognition of his financial abilities.

Like Norm Keevil, Arthur White also brought his son into the business to carry on with the kind of service and dedication vital to this industry. Congratulations Arthur White!

Thank you again for letting me share this occasion with you.



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